

# SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS INFORMATION BULLETIN

Aircraft Certification Service  
Washington, DC



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

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[www.faa.gov/certification/aircraft](http://www.faa.gov/certification/aircraft)

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*This is information only. Recommendations aren't mandatory.*

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## Introduction

This Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin alerts you, owners and operators of certain **Bell Helicopter Textron** rotorcraft models (listed below) with **Outerlink Corporation CP-2 Satcom System** installed when the CP-2 receive antenna is installed in accordance with Outerlink Corporation drawing no. N000-1633, or similar design, of **possible antenna mount failure**.

<b>Bell Helicopter Textron</b>
<b>206A</b> installed per STC SR00120BO
<b>206B</b> installed per STC SR00120BO
<b>206L</b> installed per STC SR00120BO
<b>206L-1</b> installed per STC SR00120BO
<b>206L-3</b> installed per STC SR00120BO
<b>206L-4</b> installed per STC SR00120BO
<b>407</b> installed per FAA Field Approval

## Background

During a preflight inspection, the pilot of a Bell 206 discovered that the mounting bracket for the CP 2 Satcom receive antenna had separated from the helicopter due to vibration fatigue. The antenna mount is typically fabricated by the installing agency from 2024-T3 0.040" thick sheet aluminum. It is installed on the fin cap of the vertical fin using eight blind fasteners. The antenna coax was torn from the antenna upon separation of the antenna from the tail. Fortunately, the antenna mount didn't make contact with the tail rotor. Approximately 3000 flight hours had accumulated on the helicopter since the CP-2 system was installed.

## Recommendations

We highly recommend that you use a 10x magnifying glass and immediately inspect the CP-2 receive antenna mounting bracket for signs of fatigue cracking in the area along and directly above the rivet line where the bracket mounts to the vertical tail fin cap. You should repeat inspections every 25-50 flight hours or until the bracket is permanently removed from the rotorcraft. The STC holder is currently investigating other alternatives for mounting the CP-2 Satcom antenna.

We will continue monitoring this safety issue and may take further action such as issuing an AD in the future.

**For Further Information Contact**

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